

**COMPREHENSIVE ENFORCEMENT AND
IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2005**

MAY 26 ANNOUNCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

There is a growing consensus across the ideological spectrum that our immigration system is badly broken, fails to serve the interests of our national security and our national economy, and undermines respect for the rule of law, and that in a post-9/11 world, national security demands comprehensive reform of our immigration system.

Yet for far too long, the debate over immigration has divided Americans of good will into one of two camps – those who are angry and frustrated by our failure to enforce the rule of law, and those who are angry and frustrated that our immigration laws do not reflect reality. But both camps are right. This is not an either/or proposition. We need stronger enforcement *and* reasonable reform of our immigration laws. Only by addressing both enforcement and reform will we restore confidence in our immigration system.

History shows that reform without enforcement fails. We will not repeat prior mistakes. The Senate has convened a series of hearings focusing on border and interior enforcement. Today's announcement focuses on enforcement. With respect to the reform portion of our agenda, I continue to support the President's principles and plan to announce a reform proposal implementing those principles in the coming weeks.

I look forward to hearing from our colleagues on their thoughts on this enforcement agenda. And of course I look forward to announcing the reform portion of our agenda in coming weeks. But one thing is clear: We must demonstrate to the American people that we are finally getting serious about enforcing the law – because without enforcement, reform will fail.

Getting Control of Our Borders

- Authorizes sufficient resources, including additional Border Patrol agents and accompanying technology (e.g. UAV's, sensors and cameras), to stop illegal border crossing
- Provides the Department of Homeland Security with sufficient detention space to eliminate the release of illegal aliens into the country
- Requires these items to be fully funded before any new temporary worker program
- Increases the legal authority of the Department of Homeland Security to quickly and fairly remove illegal border crossers
- Improves electronic entry-exit systems to better track and identify those enters the country and those who fail to depart

Strengthening Interior Enforcement and Leveraging State and Local Law Resources

- Clarifies and reinforces State and Local authority to enforce federal immigration laws
- Expands Institutional Removal Program to identify criminal aliens in federal and state correctional facilities and remove them upon completion of their sentences
- Authorizes additional funds to reimburse states and counties for costs related to the detention and prosecution of illegal aliens
- Provides the Department of Homeland Security with sufficient investigators and detention space to locate and remove criminal aliens
- Ensures that criminal aliens and terrorists do not secure immigration benefits that may allow them to work and travel in the U.S.

Streamlining Deportation of Criminal Aliens and Other Dangerous Persons

- Requires aliens who have been ordered removed to surrender to the Department of Homeland Security
- Authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to detain specially dangerous aliens when their own country won't accept their return
- Provides additional immigration judges and attorneys to eliminate delays
- Allows the Department of Homeland Security to expeditiously remove aliens who were previously deported and then reentered illegally

Prosecution of Immigration Violations and Employment Verification System

- Establishes new senior Justice Department official at the Assistant Attorney General level to oversee all immigration enforcement litigation, to ensure high level DOJ attention, energy, and accountability
- Strengthen integrity of the social security number system and implement an Employment Verification System to electronically confirm employment authorization
- Requires development and use of machine-readable, tamper-resistant identification documents that incorporate biometrics.
- Authorizes additional resources for worksite enforcement and the prosecution of employment of unauthorized workers
- Increases the penalties for aliens who engage in gang violence and drug trafficking
- Curtails illegal employment of aliens through increased penalties and additional worksite investigators
- Provides necessary tools to identify and prosecute individuals who commit immigration and document fraud